GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1489
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
SHORTAGE OF VACCINES AND SERUMS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of various vaccines and serums, particularly the serum for snake-bites in various States including West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to augment the supply of vaccines and serums for effective treatment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) of the Government of India , Six vaccines namely OPV, BCG, Measles, DPT, DT and TT are provided to the states. In addition to these Japanese Encephalitis vaccine and Hepatitis-B vaccine are supplied to selected states/ District as per their requirements. Other vaccinces and serums including serum for snake bites are purchased by the State Government directly from the manufactures. As per the report received from the West Bengal, there is no shortage of serum for snake-bites.

There is no shortage of OPV and BCG vaccines under the UIP. However, there is shortage of DPT, DT, TT and measles vaccines in the State including West Bengal.

The shortage of vaccines was due to problem of procurement of vaccine.

(c) The Government of India has placed order for supply of vaccines under UIP to vaccine manufactures for the year 2008-09.